

"To care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans."

## The National Tribune.

(ESTABLISHED 1877)

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### HEADQUARTERS NATIONAL TRIBUNE

In the Blue Parlor, Seneca Hotel, Rochester.

The National Tribune has secured for headquarters at the National Encampment the spacious Blue Parlor in the Hotel Seneca, adjoining National G. A. R. Headquarters. The veterans are cordially invited to meet the Editor and representatives of the paper there, to make it a place where they can meet their comrades and friends, and to which they can have their letters and papers sent.

The National Tribune will be very glad to have the veterans and their wives make fullest use of this room.

Commander Nathan E. Harman, Department of Kansas, G. A. R., has invited John McElroy to be present at the Annual Encampment to be held at Lawrence, Kan., May 16, 17 and 18. Commander McElroy has accepted the invitation.

In spite of the death of the silver agitation the number of silver dollars in circulation seems to have greatly increased. It formerly ranged about \$50,000,000, but April 1 there were 72,617,266 silver dollars in circulation.

The 21st Annual Encampment of the Department of Oklahoma will be held in Blackwell May 17-18-19. Blackwell is a beautiful city, located in the garden spot of Oklahoma and easily accessible to every part of the State. It is illuminated by its own natural gas. The people are making every preparation to entertain the Encampment in the very best way. Commander John McElroy will be present one of the days.

Capt. Henry E. Palmer, ex-Postmaster and one of the Board of Governors of the National Soldiers' Home, died at his home in Omaha, April 2, of apoplexy. Commander Palmer was prominent in the Grand Army, and was Department Commander of Nebraska in 1884. He worked very hard and successfully to establish the United States Soldiers' Hospital at Hot Springs, S. D. He was a man of much ability and very popular among all who knew him.

Reciprocity is being earnestly discussed in the Canadian Parliament, and the debate drags on in a way that astonishes even our easy-going Senate. The bill for reciprocity was introduced three months ago by the Minister of Finance and has been debated ever since. The opposition is quite active and resourceful. Anti-reciprocity meetings are being held all through the country and everywhere are posters headed with the British flag and "God Save the King," with stirring appeals against the bill.

Alexander P. Asbury, Commander, Department of Indiana, G. A. R., calls the 32d Annual Encampment to meet at Richmond, Ind., May 17, 18 and 19. The citizens of Richmond are taking great interest in the meeting, and it bids fair to be one of the best that the Department has ever had. The "Boys' Band" of the Soldier and Sailors' Orphans' Home, of Knightstown, will be there. In his General Order Commander A. P. Asbury announces the death of Commander Irvin Robbins. Commander Robbins served in the 7th Ind., became Captain in the 123d Ind. and was promoted to Major. He was an enthusiastic Grand Army man, and had held all the offices in his Post. He was elected Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, and served under Commander-in-Chief I. N. Walker as his Adjutant-General.

The statement that Ambassador Wilson obtained a photograph of treaty between Mexico and Japan is too startling to be accepted without further evidence. It does not seem probable that Japan and Mexico would enter into a secret agreement which would be distinctly offensive to the United States, nor does it seem probable that Japan would throw an outpost across the Pacific Ocean when she is strenuously in need of all her men and resources in making Korea and Manchuria ready for the Russian invasion, which is sure to come. A naval base of Japan in Mexico would be more a source of danger to her and to Mexico than anything else. In the event of Japan becoming involved in a war with any other power, the base would be at once taken away from her and she could not possibly defend it. Yet the story is given with such an amount of circumstantial detail and these details agree with so many known facts that it arrests attention and calls for further light.

### ACTION IMPERATIVELY NEEDED.

What the veterans imperatively need by Congress is action. We have had an abundance of resolutions, indorsements, speeches, etc.

Congress is informed beyond any possibility of a doubt as to what the comrades want. Multiplying bills is a vexation; flamboyant speeches overflowing with love and affection for the men who saved the Union are a burden, and quibbling over insignificant details a nuisance.

Not in 100 years of this thing can Congress be better informed as to what the veterans desire, what is imperatively needed and what national justice and gratitude demand than it is at this day.

It is simply criminal to haggle over different bills and their details at a time when 100 veterans are dying daily and the rest are struggling under all the pangs of old-age, disease and poverty.

Representatives who are talking about the value of different bills and putting one in opposition to another are wickedly wasting time of vital importance to the veterans. Any bill that we can get thru is better than no bill.

The nearer approach any bill is made to the terms of the Sulloway bill, the better the veterans will be satisfied, the more justice will be rendered, and the greater will be the relief extended to the veterans and their widows throughout the country.

Let us have the pension bill passed at once. A majority in both Houses is ready for this, and waiting for a bill to be reported by the appropriate committees.

Delay is inexcusable, and no member of Congress need think that he can go before his constituents and excuse himself for non-action upon the timely pretext that he was uninformed as to the real wishes of the veterans, or that he had some bill that was better than the bill which the veterans have generally indorsed.

Let him get his bill or any bill thru and then he can talk to his constituents with a probability that they will believe in his protestations.

Let us have ACTION next week if possible.

The veterans and their friends will hold these pretended friends to a strict accountability for any delay.

### PENSION BILLS.

There were 3,800 bills introduced into Congress the first day of the session. Among these Gen. Sherwood succeeded in having his bill put on the calendar as H. R. 1. It was represented throughout the country by the Associated Press that it was a dollar-a-day bill, but anyone who will study will see that it hardly fills this description. It reads:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any person who served in the military service of the United States during the late civil war, and who has been honorably discharged therefrom, shall upon making proof of such facts according to such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may provide, be placed upon the pension roll and be paid a pension as follows: For a service of 90 days or over and less than six months, \$15 per month; for a service of six months and less than nine months, \$20 per month; for a service of nine months and less than one year, \$25 per month; for a service of one year or over, \$30 per month. No soldier or sailor entitled under this act to a pension of either \$25 per month or \$30 per month shall be eligible to admission or residence in either a State or National Soldiers' Home.

Sec. 2. That any soldier eligible to a pension under this act who was wounded in battle or on duty and who was honorably discharged therefrom, shall be entitled to a pension of \$30 per month, without regard to his length of service.

Sec. 3. That no part of the appropriation for pension under this act shall be paid to any soldier whose annual income exceeds \$1,000 or who is engaged in manual labor, shall be paid the maximum pension under this act, to wit, \$30 per month, without regard to his length of service.

Sec. 4. That no person shall receive a pension under any other law at the same time or for the same period as he is receiving a pension under the provisions of this act.

Sec. 5. That rank shall not be considered in applications filed hereunder.

Sec. 6. That this act shall take effect immediately, and payment of pensions under this act shall commence from the date of filing application for the same.

The bill contains several very obvious defects and imperfections which doubtless Gen. Sherwood will remedy when he has a chance to amend the bill in committee, as we trust he will do at the first meeting. In the first place, it excludes the sailors and marines, which is an obvious oversight. It attempts to follow the lines of the Sulloway bill, but makes a grade in pensions according to service which does not seem to be skillfully done.

The most glaring imperfection is in Sec. 2, which might by an unfriendly Administration be made to exclude from the highest rating all those who were not actually disabled for manual labor by wounds received in line of duty. It is seen that it makes no provision for other disabilities received in line of duty which are just as important in a pension sense as wounds.

The provision in Sec. 2, limiting pensions to those whose income is less than \$1,000, is class legislation, against which the G. A. R. has always sternly set its face. Probably Gen. Sherwood will greatly amend his bill when it comes up to be considered in committee.

Representative Sulloway reintroduced his bill so promptly that it was numbered H. R. 3, or only two numbers after Gen. Sherwood's. The Sulloway bill, which has been considered with the utmost thoroughness and which has received such overwhelming indorsement from all parts of the country, reads:

That any person who served 90 days or more in the military or naval service of the United States during the late civil war, or 90 days in the War with Mexico, and who has reached the age of 62 or over, shall, upon making proof of such facts according to such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may provide, be placed upon the pension roll and be entitled to receive a pension as follows: In case such person has not received further pay, \$15 per month; 65 years, \$20 per month; 70 years, \$25 per month; 75 years or over, \$30 per month; and such pension shall commence from the date of the filing of the application in the Bureau of Pensions after the approval and approval of this act. Provided, That pensioners who are 62 years of age or over, and who are now receiving pensions under existing laws, or whose claims are pending in the Bureau of Pensions, may, by application to the Commissioner of Pensions, in such form as he may prescribe, receive the benefits of this act; and nothing herein contained shall prevent a pensioner from prosecuting his claim and receiving a pension under any other general or special act. Provided further, That no person shall receive a pension under any other law at the same time or for the same period as he is receiving a pension under the provisions hereof. That no person who is now receiving or shall hereinafter receive a greater pension under any other general or special act, shall be entitled to a pension under the provisions hereof. 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